

Summer 2006

The Classic, Summer 2006

Public Relations

Northwestern College - Orange City

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CLASSIC



A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Summer 2006

City Stories

Northwestern's Mission Year connection



Dr. Bruce Murphy
President

Northwestern's greatest asset

"I want to adopt each of those young people!" That enthusiastic endorsement came from Dr. John Agresto, the former president of St. John's College, as he bounded into my office and plopped down in the corner chair.

He had just eaten lunch with a group of Northwestern students as part of the college's regular reaccreditation process. "They were so honest and open," he went on, "they can't all be like that."

Maybe not, but before Dr. Agresto and his colleagues left campus, they were sufficiently impressed to make a special point of describing our students as "positive, loyal and committed."

And it didn't stop there; an underlying theme of the visiting team's exit interview was the high quality of the NWC community. They spoke of a "dedicated and hard-working faculty, staff and administration," "an engaged Board of Trustees," and a "spirit of trust and mutual respect among the various constituencies of the college."

This is as it should be, we say; after all, we are a Christian college. And the visiting team acknowledged this as well, noting "a shared commitment to the college's mission and an extraordinary ability to articulate the mission on the part of all constituencies: board, administration, faculty, staff, students, alumni and townspeople."

But I fear we may take for granted what the evaluating team clearly did not. As we look to the future, I believe Northwestern's greatest asset is our people.

In the next 10 years, before another reaccreditation visit takes place, Northwestern will face numerous challenges: rising costs, a shrinking student base in the upper Midwest, a major fund-raising campaign, and most challenging of all, the need to demonstrate a Christian perspective on life to a world more skeptical than ever about the gospel. How will we face these challenges? *Together*—grateful to God for each other and the Holy Spirit who works through us.

As you read through this issue of the *Classic*, note the profiles of our students, faculty, staff and alumni. And don't miss the piece on Beth De Leeuw, who is retiring after serving five NWC presidents with dignity, grace and exceptional competence.

Yes, our greatest asset is our people—and that includes you. Thank you for your faithful support.

Bruce Murphy

SUMMER ALUMNI EVENTS

Chicago

Sunday, July 9 • 1 p.m.

Dawn Huijbregtse '98 and Holly Donaghy '89 are hosting a cookout at Salt Creek Park, Wood Dale, Ill.

Des Moines

Friday, July 21 • 5:30 p.m.

Darren Kleis '92, Jay Wielenga and the Alumni Association are hosting a picnic prior to the Iowa Cubs AAA minor league baseball game at Principal Park.

Colorado

Sunday, August 13 • 3–5 p.m.

Edna (Moss '66) Mast and her husband, Dave, and Tony and Linda (Vanderhorst '68) Van Beek are hosting a picnic in Monument.

Visit www.nwciowa.edu/alumnigatherings for details, costs and RSVP information for each event. Or call the advancement office, 712-707-7106.

classicpeople

CLASSIC

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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in April, June, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

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What's inside

Northwestern receives reaccreditation

It was no surprise, but a May letter provided formal notification that Northwestern has been reaccredited by The Higher Learning Commission. The commission, an arm of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, voted to continue accreditation without any stipulations, and scheduled the next comprehensive evaluation for 2015–16.

"We are honored and humbled by this strong affirmation," says President Bruce Murphy. "We chose to use the reaccreditation process as an opportunity to learn more about ourselves and to improve. What we learned was encouraging and gratifying."

A five-member evaluation team visited NWC last fall, meeting with faculty, staff, students, board members, alumni and community leaders. In its report, the accreditation team cited Northwestern's "well-understood mission," adding that there is "ample evidence it



Evaluators cited the effective use of technology in teaching, learning and communication across campus as one of Northwestern's strengths.

has been using its resources to accomplish that mission effectively.

"The goals, decision-making processes, and relationships among the trustees, faculty, students and administration position the college to accomplish its purposes in the coming decade," wrote the evaluators. "There will undoubtedly be significant

challenges facing all small, private institutions over the next several years, but it is the judgment of the team that Northwestern College is among the very strongest of these sorts of institutions. The team gives Northwestern its most positive recommendation and most enthusiastic endorsement."

They like us!

Evaluators cited nine Northwestern strengths, including:

- a shared commitment to the institutional mission
- good relations with the local community
- a modern, attractive and well-maintained physical plant
- effective use of technology
- prudent financial management
- a spirit of trust and mutual respect among the college's constituencies
- a dedicated and hard-working faculty, staff and administration
- an engaged Board of Trustees
- positive and committed students



Ron De Jong

De Jong appointed VP

Ron De Jong, associate vice president for advancement, has been appointed to the new role of vice president for external relations. He began his new duties on July 1.

In his new position, De Jong oversees the work of enrollment services and public relations while also continuing with responsibilities in the advancement office. "Ron's many years of experience in

admissions and his skill in communicating the mission of Northwestern to many different audiences over the years will serve him well in this new position," says President Bruce Murphy.

De Jong joined Northwestern's admissions staff after he graduated from the college in 1971. He served as director of admissions from 1977 until he was named dean of enrollment services in 2003. He was appointed to his fund-raising role last summer to provide leadership while John Greller, vice president for advancement, was on medical leave.

Lilly Endowment renewal grant awarded to NWC



A new program to help students of color explore their leadership abilities is among the NWC efforts that will be aided by a renewal grant from the Lilly Endowment.

A renewal grant of \$499,800 from Lilly Endowment Inc. will enable Northwestern to build upon its Vocare: Find Your Place project. Vocare, which seeks to help prepare a new generation of leaders for church and society by helping NWC students discover and then commit to their calling, was begun in 2003 with a \$2 million gift from the Lilly Endowment.

"We are very pleased with the news our application for extended funding was approved," says President Bruce Murphy. "The additional monies will enable us to continue and strengthen our efforts to help students discern their place in God's world. We are planning to provide new opportunities in leadership development, to enhance advising, and to expand local and global options for vocational exploration."

Specific initiatives for the new funds include greater integration of vocational themes into curriculum and advising, expansion of a program that places ministry interns in churches, development of new resources about vocation for parents and peers, and establishment of a three-year experience for emerging leaders who are students of color.

Northwestern's renewal grant was one of 30 announced in May by the Lilly Endowment to private, church-related liberal arts colleges and universities that earlier had received grants from the endowment's Programs for Theological Exploration of Vocation. Since the first grant in 1999, the Lilly Endowment has invested more than \$217 million into the program and assisted 88 schools in 29 states.

"This initiative opened

with three major aims: to encourage young people to explore Christian ministry as their possible life's work, to help all students draw on the wisdom of their faith traditions in making career choices, and to enhance the capacity of the schools' faculties and staffs to teach and mentor students in these areas," says Craig Dykstra, the Lilly Endowment's senior vice president for religion.

"What these schools have accomplished—in bringing a sense of vocation to young people's career choices—has been phenomenal," says Dykstra. "We have heard from students, faculty, staff, alumni and even parents about the effectiveness of these college programs in encouraging young people to engage in vocational reflection. They are excited about it."

In 2003, Northwestern established a new department, the Center for Spiritual Formation and Vocation, to bring together the Lilly Grant office, campus ministry, service learning and career development. Vocare's over 30 original initiatives included establishing more study abroad experiences, helping students explore their potential for ministry leadership, supporting numerous projects involving worship and the arts, providing multicultural training and hiring a full-time career counselor.

Development office undergoes name change

John Greller isn't just a fund-raiser. Sure, he and his staff raise money for Northwestern, but their role is so much more.

"We're here to advance the mission of the college," the NWC vice president says, "and in that process, encourage commitment by others to the vision, mission and purpose of Northwestern."

To more accurately reflect that task, the department he oversees underwent a name change July 1.

Northwestern's Office of Development is now known as the Office of Advancement. The new moniker is in keeping with a nationwide trend. Because of the close association of "development" with fund raising, an increasing number of colleges and universities are adopting the term "advancement" to more accurately convey the entire scope of that department's efforts.

Regardless of what it's called, one thing remains the same. "Advancement is an institution-wide responsibility," Greller says. "It's helping the college realize its goals and objectives, and it takes the commitment of a wide range of people and churches, foundations and corporations to make that possible."

Northwestern receives grant for research on antiparasitic drugs



Dr. Ralph Davis

Northwestern has been awarded a \$197,466 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases for research Dr. Ralph Davis is conducting on antiparasitic drugs.

Davis, associate professor of biology, joined Northwestern's faculty in 2000 after 13 years as a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He pioneered studies of the neurophysiology of the nematode (roundworm) nervous system 25 years ago. In 2001, he was awarded a \$576,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his basic research on the worms' nervous system.

Davis' new grant will fund three years of research on several compounds that hold promise as the next generation of antiparasitic drugs. Using neurophysiological and neuropharmacological techniques, Davis will seek to determine the

drugs' mechanisms of action and targets.

Parasitic nematodes are among the world's leading disease-causing organisms. One species found in humans affects an estimated 1.5 billion people worldwide—approximately one-fourth of the planet.

Several species of nematodes live in the intestinal tract of their hosts, consuming up to one-third of the food ingested by the host. "They are a hidden cause of malnutrition," says Davis, adding that they can lead to diarrhea and respiratory disease.

Davis' previous research has contributed to the development of drugs to paralyze the worms so they can be expelled by the host. New and different drugs are continually in demand since the worms can develop resistance to paralytic agents currently on the market.

The worms Davis studies come from the intestinal tracts of hogs, and his research applies to developing drugs to combat hog parasites as well, improving pig nutrition and weight gain.

Dean of spiritual formation leaves

Dr. Keith Anderson, dean of spiritual formation and vocation and director of the Lilly Grant, has resigned to become the senior vice president of academic affairs and academic dean at Mars Hill Graduate School in Seattle. He began his new duties on July 1.

Mars Hill is a 10-year-old institution offering a Master of Divinity degree, master's degrees in counseling psychology and Christian studies, and certificates in spiritual direction and domestic violence advocacy. About 250 students are enrolled.

"It's a fresh opportunity



Dr. Keith Anderson

for me to give major, shaping leadership to a whole different level of higher education than I've ever worked with," says Anderson. "There are some very important new initiatives they're working on in spiritual formation that I'm excited to be involved in."

At Mars Hill, Anderson will serve on the senior leadership team and oversee development of the curriculum, faculty, learning outcomes and teaching goals. He

will also teach spirituality, spiritual formation, and history of spirituality.

Anderson joined Northwestern's administration in 2002, serving as interim chaplain. He became dean of spiritual formation and director of the Lilly Grant the following year.

"I'm pleased that we have seen significant progress in moving vocation into the fabric of Northwestern and deepening conversations about multicultural issues," says Anderson in review of his time at the college. "One of my great memories will be the relationships I've established with other members of

the Administrative Council. It's an unusual group of people who are deeply committed to students."

A senior fellow for spiritual formation for the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, Anderson received the organization's Dana Walling Award for Excellence in Campus Ministry in 2004. Anderson, who has written five books published by InterVarsity Press, was dean of campus ministry at the University of Sioux Falls from 1984 to 1990 and dean of spiritual formation at Minnesota's Bethel University from 1990 until 2002.

Mailbag

Christ is answer for mental illness

The lack of a Christian perspective in “Help for the Hurting” (spring 2006) and the wholesale acceptance of the medical model for mental illness in last issue’s cover story struck me as being plainly wrong.

I grant at the outset there are organic reasons for depression that must be medically explored *first*. Were medical reasons to be found (to list just a few: heart disease, hypothyroidism, brain stem injury, post-partum hormonal fluctuations), a depressed person would not be said to be suffering from mental illness, but rather, from an identified organic problem. Already in 1974, Thomas Szasz was saying this.

Speaking against the popular theory of chemical imbalances in the brain, Dr. Charles Hodges (diplomat, American Board of Family Practice, member of National Association for Nouthetic Counselors) is wont to say in training sessions for biblical counselors, “There is no dipstick in the brain.”

Hodges cites the *Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry* (sixth edition, 1997) by Kaplan and Sadock: “Despite three decades of research, no proof exists to support the chemical imbalance theory of the brain (p. 1076). He wryly notes cultural attitudes today on depression approach religious orthodoxy in much the same way that it is taboo to question evolution in biology.

With these things in mind, I was distressed to see this

cultural orthodoxy trumpeted by the *Classic* without even a whisper of there being a different view. If you subscribe to the medical model for mental illness, you rob these sufferers of power and responsibility for change. You’ve allowed the cause of his “illness” to be outside of oneself, and therefore, one’s responsibility revolves on the merry-go-round described by Kari Broadway: “It took doctors eight years before they found the right medications for her. With that and electroconvulsive therapy once a month, she says she is doing well.”

What, indeed, would Jesus do, asks alumnus Dr. Jason Kanz in his “Classic Thoughts” column. I would agree we should walk along with hurting people and that we should become excellent listeners. But unlike Kanz, I would offer these folks the living Jesus along with his all-sufficient Word. Learning to put the Word into practice—this Living Word which comes to us with the power of Christ’s ever-present Holy Spirit—and practicing mutual accountability in a living fellowship of Christ’s disciples—these things we can learn to do, better and better, and in the process, be changed.

Tom Cruise was halfway right when he tangled with Brooke Shields—anti-depressants aren’t the answer for most depressed persons. But over against his Scientology, I would offer the hope that is found in Christ alone.

Craig Swanson ’76
Benton City, Wash.

Northwestern’s proactive stance appreciated

I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed the cover stories from the spring issue. Although it seems like overall there is still that lingering mentality that Christians shouldn’t

need therapy, it’s nice to see the college has taken such a proactive stance in helping students and expanding the counseling options.

Just as we would combat a physical illness with

both prayer and medicine, we need to understand that mental illnesses may require divine and medical intervention as well.

I’m proud that the *Classic* continues to bring

such important issues to our attention for discussion and debate. Please keep the thought-provoking articles coming!

Sara Veldhuizen Stealy ’98
Cary, N.C.

Students participate in summer research programs

Three Northwestern students were chosen from applicants across the country to participate in Research Experience for Undergraduates programs this summer funded by the National Science Foundation. Each program provides students with a stipend and living expenses.

Brett Boote, a junior chemistry major from Hull, Iowa, is doing chemistry research related to photodynamics and nanoscience at the University of South Dakota.

Candace Gross, a junior from Parker, S.D., who is majoring in psychology, is participating in the research program at Western Kentucky University. She is working on gifted-student research.

Amy Vander Holt, a junior psychology major from Parkersburg, Iowa, is conducting research at Oklahoma State University. She is studying the emotional intelligence of leaders and followers.

Thayer receives staff recognition award

Patti Thayer, director of academic support, was named the 2006 recipient of the college's Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award in April. She received a \$500 honorarium funded by the Alumni Association, a plaque, and a luncheon for her and her coworkers.

The honor is given to recognize staff who consistently provide outstanding contributions by going above and beyond what is expected, personify a strong Christian commitment, and distinguish themselves as an inspiration to the campus community. Northwestern employees nominated candidates, and a selection committee—which included a faculty member, the three previous winners of the award and another staff member—selected Thayer.

Thayer, who taught writing at NWC from 1978 to 1984, becomes the first person to have won both the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award and Northwestern's staff award. She received the teaching honor in 1984.

She came back to Northwestern in 1989 after working in Ohio Northern University's Communication Skills Center and



Director of Academic Support Patti Thayer becomes the first person to win both Northwestern's faculty and staff awards.

teaching high school English in Sheldon, Iowa. In her current role, she oversees 100 student tutors, provides accommodations for students with learning disabilities, and works individually with students who want to develop more efficient learning strategies.

Randy Van Peursem, academic support professional assistant, nominated his supervisor for the award, citing her strong Christian witness, work ethic and willingness to do whatever she can to help students.

"Her door is always open for people to discuss things with her, her arms are always open for people to receive a warm hug, and her heart is always open for people to build a relationship with her," wrote Van Peursem. "The time and energy she puts into accommodating students and building relationships is worthy of emulation. She sees herself as a servant of Christ, and she humbly serves him by serving others."

Van Peursem said Thayer makes many contributions to the Northwestern community.

"Patti's strong organizational skills and attention to detail make her incredibly efficient. She is able to do amazing things with a limited budget and small staff. She is frequently asked to be on committees because of her gifts and talents—people know that with Patti on their committee, creative ideas will always be abundant."

In Van Peursem's nomination, he said Thayer has been an inspiration for countless individuals. Her impact on students, he wrote, often goes beyond their college years.

"Many students have changed their career goals after working for Patti. They want a career like hers—either in writing or working with students with disabilities," he wrote, adding a personal note. "The mature, godly wisdom that Patti exhibits on a daily basis in all areas of life has influenced me beyond measure."

Worth celebrating



Members of Northwestern's class of 2006 mark the end of one era—and the dawn of the next—at commencement on May 13. Dr. Kim Jongerius, professor of mathematics and the 2005 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award winner, spoke as 233 students graduated.

De Valois Stadium gets a makeover

When the Red Raider football team opens its season at home against Dakota State on Sept. 2, fans will see a greatly improved De Valois Stadium. Over the summer, aluminum bleachers with 3,100 seats will be installed, increasing the stadium's seating capacity by about 900.

The \$630,000 project will be funded by a combination of college resources and a limited number of private donations.

"This was always in our long-range plans," says Barry Brandt, Northwestern's athletic director, "but the timeline was moved up to meet safety standards. The old bleachers had openings in the decking, in front and behind fans' feet, and were a concern."

The home bleachers will stretch from one 15-yard line to the other and rise 20 rows. There will be four entrances: one on each end plus two walkways inside the grandstand. The visitors' bleachers will run from one 25-yard line to the other and be 10 rows high.

With a steeper incline, the bleachers will improve fans' sightlines. The risers will be colored red, and the decking will be completely enclosed underneath. A one-story press box will attach to the top of the grandstand.

The project is the latest in a series of stadium renova-

tions. In 2003, an eight-lane polyurethane track was completed and the bleachers on the visitors' side were moved. A locker room facility was also built. A synthetic FieldTurf playing surface and Daktronics scoreboard were installed in 2004, at which time the field was named Korver Field in honor of former Head Football Coach Larry Korver and his wife, Betty.

"We have had a really good performance arena, with an outstanding track and playing surface for soccer and football," says Brandt. "Now our spectators and people who do the statistical work for us will have facilities comparable to what the athletes have on the field."

Brandt says the final phase of the stadium renovation, to be completed when funds are available, includes enclosing the bleachers with brick or decorative block and constructing new entrances.

Woudstra leaves alumni office



Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Karen Woudstra greets Doris (Mulder '43) and John Vogel prior to the 2005 Heritage Day luncheon.

After five years of guiding Northwestern's Homecoming, Gala Auction and other alumni programs, Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra has resigned her position as director of alumni and parent relations.

"Karen has done a superlative job," says John Greller, vice president for advancement. "She leaves a legacy of love and excellence and will be sorely missed."

"I have enjoyed Northwestern's Christian environment, the people I worked with, the National Alumni Board I served and the job itself," Woudstra says. "This was a very hard decision to make, but due to my desire to work part time and have more time for family and ministry, I felt it was God's call for me."

Actuarial program receives advanced classification

Moving up. That's the status of Northwestern's actuarial science program.

The program, begun in 2002, has received approval from the Society of Actuaries to be moved from its introductory classification to the "advanced" level. The designation recognizes that Northwestern's curriculum covers all topics on the first two actuarial exams, plus at least 12 semester hours of topics on the third and fourth.

Northwestern is now the smallest college with the advanced classification, and one of only two members of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities at that level. Only 84 colleges and universities are classified as advanced.

"Our program now has the ability to take students further down the process of becoming certified actuaries," says Dr. Tim Huffman, associate professor of mathematics. "Employers will look at our designation and probably give more weight to our students."

Assistant to the president retires



Beth De Leeuw, administrative assistant to the president, retired in June.

How does she do it? That's a question that was frequently on the mind of Dr. Jim Bultman, Northwestern's president from 1985 to 1999, regarding his administrative

assistant, Beth De Leeuw.

"The sheer volume of work Beth turned out on a daily basis was really quite unbelievable. I always wondered how she was getting it

done," says Bultman. "I finally realized she was taking her work home—in essence, working both the day shift and a night shift."

De Leeuw's overtime work habits came to an end this summer, when she retired after 29 years. She assisted five presidents during that time, serving as a constant among change.

De Leeuw, who received Northwestern's Staff Recognition for Inspirational Service Award in 2004, was often cited by co-workers for her positive spirit, graciousness, commitment and knowledge.

"She is competence personified," says Bultman. "I

simply can't imagine anyone doing the job better than Beth. I can't remember her ever making a mistake in 14 years."

De Leeuw's last boss, Dr. Bruce Murphy, says she performed her work in a way that brought glory to God.

"Beth responded to anxious concerns, unhappy constituents and stressful deadlines with amazing grace. She inspired the community by her model of integrity, perseverance, confidentiality and servant leadership. We will miss her greatly."

Northwestern appoints Jeff Barker to endowed professorship

Jeff Barker, professor of theatre and speech, has been appointed to the Northwestern College Endowed Professorship.

The professorship provides annual funds to support the recipient's scholarly work. The funds can be used for summer research, the purchase of materials, travel to pursue research, or assistance for student researchers.

The endowed professor must be a committed Christian who has a distinguished record as an outstanding teacher; is recognized for scholarly and leadership contributions to his or her discipline; has provided

exemplary service to his or her academic department, NWC and the larger community; and has demonstrated a commitment to the college's mission.

Barker, a member of the faculty since 1988, has written over 50 plays. They include *Kin*, about a 1920s Supreme Court case, which won grand prize in the 2002 New Voices Iowa Playwrights Competition.

Barker's play *September Bears*, about events surrounding 9/11, has toured nationally and was featured on the FOX News Channel in 2003. In 2004, Northwestern's DeWitt Theatre

Arts Center opened with *And God Said*, a musical Barker wrote in collaboration with Broadway composer Ron Melrose.

In 1991, Barker and his wife, Karen, received Northwestern's Sears-Roebuck Foundation Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award. The Barkers were named Gold Medallion award recipients by Region Five of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in 2003.

Barker's appointment is for a five-year period beginning this fall. The first three recipients of the North-



Author of more than 50 plays, Jeff Barker has received awards from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and his alma mater, Seattle Pacific University.

western College Endowed Professorship were Dr. Doug Anderson of the history department, Dr. Fred Van Dyke of the biology department and Dr. Keith Fynaardt of the English department.

Faculty awarded research grants

Northwestern awarded 2006 Summer Scholarship Grants to eight faculty members.

Grants of up to \$2,250 were presented to five professors, while another three were the recipients of grants of up to \$5,000 for collaborative research with students. The grants are designed to encourage the production of scholarly work for publication and distribution beyond Northwestern's campus.

Dr. Kim Jongerius, mathematics, is exploring mathematical concepts in the writings of C.S. Lewis.

Dr. Juyeon Kang, music, is preparing and presenting a solo piano concert that combines classical music with arrangements of hymns and worship music. Her schedule includes performances in Brazil, China and Taiwan.

Dr. Michael Kensak, English and German, is continuing his interdisciplinary study of medieval English poet Geoffrey Chaucer. Kensak is exploring how scientific, philosophical and legal notions of "matter" inform Chaucer's understanding of poetic "matter."

Deb Menning, English, is researching the biblical and legendary influences in the work of Jim Harrison, author of *Legends of the Fall*.

Dr. Bala Musa, communication studies, is exploring the role of the media and globalization on conflicts in the emerging democracies of Africa.

Collaborative projects with students are being conducted by Dr. Laird Edman, psychology; Dr. Laura Furlong, biology; and Barbara Turnwall, English.

Edman is analyzing the data collected through surveys designed to measure college students' emotional intelligence and the relationship of spiritual maturity and belief upon sexual attitudes and behavior. Assisting him is Amanda Gordon, a psychology and Spanish major from Jenison, Mich.

Furlong expects to finish her comparison of mainland and island insect drift patterns on California's Santa Cruz Island. Two students are assisting her with field work: Nic and Justin Boersma, brothers from Hospers, Iowa, who are both biology majors.

Turnwall is facilitating two teams of educators in gathering and translating the unique stories of immigrant Hispanic families living in northwest Iowa. The teams include two NWC students: Cecilia Salazar, an English teaching major from Granville, Iowa; and Teresa Heyer, an Orange City resident working toward certification to teach English in Iowa. Their work is a pilot program of the Iowa Writing Project that is collecting and preserving the stories of various immigrant populations throughout the state.

Alumnus hired for new fund-raising position



Jason Schrock

Jason Schrock '97 will begin a new job in July as Northwestern's regional advancement director. A resident of Bellflower, Calif., he will be responsible for major donor cultivation in the western United States.

Schrock served as principal of Valley Christian Middle School in Cerritos, Calif., since 2000. In that

role, he was heavily involved in fund raising for the school system's capital campaign.

▼
"I am excited about what Northwestern is doing, and it's something I can passionately present to others."
 ▲

Schrock taught fourth grade at Valley Christian Elementary School in

Bellflower for three years. He also earned a master's degree in educational leadership at California State University, Fullerton.

"Jason comes with very strong credentials in fund raising and a strong work ethic," says Jay Wielenga, Northwestern's director of advancement. "We're excited to have him on board as part of the advancement team. This is a pivotal time in the life of Northwestern as we move ahead with the Imagine capital campaign, and Jason will be instrumental in

attracting gifted individuals who can help us fulfill our mission to be a distinctively Christian liberal arts college."

Schrock looks forward to his role. "I'm humbled and blessed to be able to work for Northwestern, to build relationships with people across the country, and to share the blessing that Northwestern has been in my own life," he says. "I am excited about what Northwestern is doing, and it's something I can passionately present to others."



A raised roof with windows down the center of the RSC will let light into the interior of the building while a tall, prominent entrance will make the student center more visible from Highway 10.

Realizing a Dream

Renovation will restore activity and energy to aging Rowenhorst Student Center

by Anita Cirulis

For more than a decade, Dale Thompson kept a list. It started as an inventory of needed improvements to the Rowenhorst Student Center (RSC), the building he supervises as a member of the student development staff. As time passed, the list grew

longer and longer and included dreams for what the building could be—a “wish list” for a reinvented student center.

This summer, Thompson and the rest of the Northwestern community will see those dreams become reality as the college embarks on the first phase of a multi-

million dollar renovation of the RSC. Of the nearly \$5 million total for phase one, \$3 million will be funded by Northwestern’s Imagine Campaign, while the remainder will come from the college’s capital improvements budget. Work began in July and will be completed by fall 2007.

“It’s misleading to say what we’re doing is renovating the student center,” Thompson says of the project. “We’re really re-creating it.”

For phase one, that re-creation involves completely gutting the front portion of the building up to the doors leading into the mini-gymna-

sium. From the main entrance to those doors, a 30-foot-wide section of the RSC's roof will be raised six feet and rimmed with windows, adding height and light to the interior of the building. So complete will be the transformation, Thompson says, that the only thing alumni will recognize will be the location of the bathrooms.

▼
“Students will see the student center not just as a place for student development or student activities, but also as part of the academic structure of campus.”
 ▲

Changing needs

More than 25 years ago, a similar transformation converted a former factory into the present-day Rowenhorst Student Center. At the time a campus showcase, the RSC most recently has been a recruiting liability due to its dated appearance. New furnishings and carpeting alone, however, wouldn't have helped the dark, mazelike feel of the building—or made better use of its space.

For years, offices for the student development staff have been located—less than ideally—in what was once the RSC director's apartment. Construction of a multi-screen movie theater in town decreased the need for the



A student services mall with windows into offices, work areas and classrooms will let people see the activity taking place in the RSC.

student center's Bogaard Theatre. And when the college's DeWitt Theatre Arts and Korver Visual Arts centers were built, not only were Bogaard and the theatre workshop unnecessary, but so was the former Te Paske Gallery, now located in the new art building.

“That whole quadrant of the RSC,” Thompson says, “became dysfunctional space.”

Changes in technology have also impacted the way the student center is used—or not used. When the RSC opened, there was one television set per residence hall, but today students have TVs in their dorm rooms.

“The big-screen TV in the student center used to be a major draw,” Thompson remembers. “When popular shows were on TV, there'd be 30, 40, 50 students watching

TV in the RSC lounge.”

Also popular was the game room. A regular flow of students would come from the cafeteria, check their mail, shoot a game of pool, and head back to class. Now the game room—with nearly 3,500 square feet of space—is rarely used. Frisbee golf on the campus green and video games played in students' rooms are a bigger draw.

A place for community

Making better use of the building's space was just one of the goals of the task force. Most important to those planning the renovation was transforming the RSC back into a place that encourages community. That vision guided decisions about what to include in the building and where to locate offices and services.

The snack bar, for example, will be relocated to the space that once housed the Te Paske Gallery. Its location, however, isn't the only thing that will change. The task

▼
“It's misleading to say what we're doing is renovating the student center. We're really re-creating it.”
 ▲

force wanted to see the facility become a destination for students, so it will have expanded hours, a coffee shop atmosphere, computer access and outdoor seating. The installation of windows and doors along the front of the RSC, to the right of the main entrance, will give people a view into the café and



A patio with outdoor seating is just one way the RSC's snack bar will be reinvented. The café, relocated to the front of the building, will also have expanded hours, a coffee shop atmosphere, and computer access.

provide easy access to the café's patio.

Moving the office that serves international and multicultural students into the RSC is another way Northwestern's community will be enhanced. Currently located in another building, the office is well-used by international students, but because of its location, is less visible to the rest of the student body.

"There will probably be more of an international feel to the RSC because of their presence," says Dr. John Brogan, vice president for student development. "We're hoping to continue to build a climate of intercultural competence and to increase our students' awareness of the world around them."

The addition of three classrooms in the RSC will fill an urgent need for more academic space. It will also contribute to community by bringing faculty and students into the building for more than just a meal or to check their mail. Most important, however, is the statement the classrooms make that learning happens everywhere—and academics and students' other pursuits aren't separate or competing experiences.

"Students will see the student center not just as a place for student development or student activities, but also as part of the academic structure of campus," Brogan says. "Sometimes a physical distinction can also lead to a mental separation."

Windows of activity

Other priorities for the renovation included adding more light, providing an easy-to-navigate floor plan, and giving the student center greater visibility from Highway 10.

The raised roof will let natural light into the interior of the RSC and create a tall, prominent entrance for the building. Inside, a student services mall extending from the main entrance to the mini-gym will be lined with windows into the offices, work areas and classrooms bordering a wide central corridor. To the right, or west, side of the corridor will be the café, an expanded post office, a larger bookstore, a classroom, the campus secu-

rity office, and a small meeting room.

The college is consolidating its counseling and health services into a wellness center that will be located just to the left of the RSC's main entrance. The center will include a receptionist window, waiting area, exam rooms, and offices for the campus nurse and counselors.



"Our hope is a rebirth of the idea of the student center as a 'Wow!' facility on campus."



Also on the left side of the mall will be offices for student development, international and multicultural affairs, student government and student activities, as well as two more classrooms. As with the rest of the RSC, windows between the main corridor and the large work area that is part of the student government section will provide a glimpse into the activity taking place in the building.

"Our hope is a rebirth of the idea of the student center as a 'Wow!' facility on campus," Thompson says. "We want to bring that life and function back in the RSC that's been waning over the years."

Facevalue

Kimberly Utke Svanoë

Music professor, prairie girl, museum junkie

When did you first want to conduct music?

I must have been about five years old when I saw the Concordia College choir with Paul J. Christensen. When he turned around, cut off the choir and stepped off the podium, I was *enthralled*. I loved listening to the choir sing and hearing all those parts.

What makes you good at what you do?

You have to have excellent preparation in order to be a teacher or a conductor. I've endeavored to prepare, and that means studying at a variety of schools with different conductors.

What's your favorite course?

Conducting. I also like to teach methods courses.

How does Northwestern's music department today compare with the department in your early years?

When I first came, Prof Van Wyk, Dr. Jiskoot and Dr. Ritsema were here. Since then, the number of full-time music faculty has doubled, and our adjuncts have probably tripled. The other major change is Christ Chapel and DeWitt Music Hall. We used to have to get trucks, haul risers and go to American Reformed Church for our concerts. And for years the A cappella Choir did its home concert in First Reformed Church.

Describe Northwestern in three words.

Special. Dear. Strong.

How would you describe yourself?

I am a North Dakota girl. I'm a prairie girl at heart, and that's one of the reasons why Northwestern is so special to me—because it's out here in the middle of the cornfields.

What's in your CD player?

Mozart's *Piano Concerto in E-flat*, because we just performed it. If something comes on the radio from the Renaissance or if I listen to Baroque pieces, I always think, "I should have been born back then." I love Renaissance consort music. And I have some CDs I buy because—if the truth be known—I'm sort of a closet rocker. I grew up with the Beatles, so I'm a product of my time, too.

Who is your favorite composer?

If you said I could only have one piece of music to listen to, I would choose Brahms' *German Requiem*.

What do you splurge on?

Concert tickets and going to museums. I like to travel, but when I get there, I spend the whole day in an art museum. Because I teach Christian Perspectives on the Fine Arts, I prepare by visiting art museums and attending concerts and plays.



In her 30 years at NWC, Dr. Kimberly Utke Svanoë spent 23 years as the conductor for the A cappella Choir. She currently directs the Women's Choir and Symphonette and teaches methods courses for choral and vocal music.

Kimberly Utke Svanoë

Challenged to put love into action, Northwestern students had a surprising response.

Left Behind

by Carrie (Odell '01) Anderson

Imagine the pews and floors of Christ Chapel covered with coins, school supplies and winter coats. These were some of the many items students, staff and faculty left behind after a challenge from a spring semester chapel speaker, Brian Moriarty.

As the resident director of Heemstra Hall, Moriarty is comfortable with random and unexpected events. Chapel that day was no exception. Moriarty shared about loving others—

how we need to love in a way that is sacrificial, and how we need to love now.

At the end of his talk, he combined those points into a challenge: He encouraged those present to leave behind something valuable to them—something in their possession at the moment, and something requiring sacrifice.

Making a donation later was not an option, as Moriarty wanted to emphasize the importance of giving now. “I wanted to catch people off guard,” he says, “to take them out of their comfort zone and engage them. Asking the campus community to leave something behind was just

one way to do that—to connect the ethereal ideas of loving people to the present reality.”

Left behind with love:

1 bottle of hair gel
stapler
web cam
Sudoku game
Amazon gift card

2 suit coats
teabags
calculators
wallets

3 sticks of gum
decks of cards
religious tracts
stuffed animals

4 purses

5 Bibles



7 pairs of pajama pants
backpacks

9 water bottles
necklaces
notebooks

11 watches

22 pairs of jeans

28 hats

136



Artwork by Christine Geertsema '07

33 coats

47 pairs of shoes

58 sweaters and
sweatshirts

70 pairs of socks

77 pairs of gloves

47



136 T-shirts

\$764.23 in cash

After chapel, Heemstra residents gathered the items. School supplies were taken to Mexico over spring break, other items were donated to Justice for All, and the money was given to Invisible Children Inc.

Moriarty's response to the response of his community? "Deep gratitude and love," he says. "That's the interesting thing about love—it fuels even more."

Hamlet for the Homeless

and other stories from Mission Year

by Amy Scheer

In a promotional video for Mission Year, a young woman calls the program “a Christian ‘Real World,’” referring to a reality television show in which groups of disparate young people live together and occasionally produce charitable work.

But where Real World participants endure ever-present cameras in always glamorous digs, Mission Year asks something more demanding of its people: that they love the Lord their God and love their neighbors as themselves—in some of the most crime-ridden areas of the United States—for a year. And there’s no getting voted out early.

The organization, founded by Tony Campolo’s son Bart, asks people ages 18–29 to live, love, worship and volunteer together in the inner city. Their ministry follows the example of Jesus, who took up residence among people and shared their burdens, with a special



Paul Elgersma and his Mission Year teammates in Oakland, Calif., reached out to neighborhood kids Calvin and Tamara.

concern for the poor.

Seven members of Northwestern’s community have answered Campolo’s call to serve. Melissa (Clark ’02) Bundt lived in Philadelphia during the 1999–2000 term. Deborah (Leman ’02) Petersen served in Oakland,

Calif., that same year; she persuaded Julia LoVan ’03 to sign up for Atlanta for 2004–05.

Jared Bearss ’04 and Paul Elgersma ’07 served in Oakland in 2004–05, and Gabe Franken ’04 is there now. Laura Gould ’05 is also

currently on Mission Year (MY), in Chicago until August.

These are their stories.

* * *

The day I spoke with Gabe, he’d read in the newspaper that the 36th homicide in Oakland this year had happened the previous night, not far from his apartment. (We spoke in early April; that’s about three murders per week.) Gabe feels safe on 87th Street, where he lives with his five teammates, but the day he rode his bike on 88th Street, he was told by his neighbor, “Don’t you ever go there by yourself again.”

On Saturdays, Mission Year participants get to know their neighbors, and not by way of the hit-and-run prof-feder pamphlet. Melissa’s team held parties for local kids. Julia did mending for

Photo to right: Laura Gould takes time to get to know her Chicago neighbors, including Mario Suyen.



guys in a drug rehab program, asking as her only payment that they read and discuss Brennan Manning's *The Ragamuffin Gospel*.

Two of Gabe's teammates go out on bikes every Saturday morning and yell, "Anyone want a free breakfast?" Usually 15 people show up at the two-bedroom apartment, though they've entertained as many as 35.

For Paul, the outreach came to him: three children, ages 11, 8 and 2, would regularly appear on his doorstep for talk, tutoring and food.

"Every time they knocked on our door, we would grab them and not let them go," Paul says, his voice losing energy. "Every time we brought them to their home, we had tears in our eyes."

The one-bedroom apartment, which housed six adults and the three kids, was filled with smoke, Paul says. One of the adults held a legitimate job, while the kids' mother, sister and cousins dealt in drugs and prostitution.

"I saw abuse," Paul says, adding that he would not recount the image that has haunted him ever since.

"My heart was ripped from my chest. It happened to that two-year-old, Calvin. When I get that image in my mind, I hate Satan so much."

* * *

Excluding Mondays, which are designated as a day of rest, the heart of each weekday is spent in community service. For most of

these seven people, the experience was their first as a minority.

When Laura began visiting residents of an African-American nursing home, she found them resistant to "leave their rooms with some strange white girl." She gave up on the idea of getting them moving and brought a checkerboard instead. After some games and conversation, Laura says, "Now, it's neat: They'll leave their rooms with me."

At the transitional shelter for homeless families where she also works, Laura tutors in an after-school program for mostly illiterate

assisted in an after-school dance therapy program for refugee girls. "Growing up, I always wanted an Asian role model," says Julia; and so, for the girls, "I wanted to be what I didn't have."

Jared, volunteering in a drug and alcohol recovery program, was shocked to witness the strength of addiction. Reading the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous with the residents, he suddenly realized he had a similar struggle. "Their addiction to drugs was like my addiction to food," he says; his teammates were the first people to whom he confessed this dependency.



Every Saturday, Gabe Franken (standing, left) and his Mission Year roommates serve a free breakfast to all comers.

children. "I'm reading a children's book to a kid, and there are no people of color in it," she says. "This is something I've only noticed for the past seven months [since beginning Mission Year]."

Julia, daughter of Thaidam Laotian refugees,

Others worked at prisons and public schools. Deborah served at a school for children with disabilities, where she assisted Eileen, who couldn't walk or talk. This was hard on the very relational Deborah, who relied on the Mission Year principle of desiring joy over

happiness in such self-sacrificial work.

* * *

When Gabe began volunteering at a homeless shelter, he found the social work draining.

Having experienced the death of his father his sophomore year, Gabe had a growing sense of detachment, and the sight of people lounging on couches all day and living from one disability check to the next discouraged him.

He produced a survey. "How could your life improve here?" he asked. Movies, excursions, the people wrote. Gabe, a theatre major, pitched these ideas to the staff with gusto.

"Art can communicate things to me that nothing else can. It makes me more motivated. These people who sit on couches all day don't seem very motivated. Maybe this can speak to them."

He procured tickets from a local theatre and took the shelter residents to see *Hamlet*, Shakespeare's play about a young man who struggles to find meaning after the death of his father.

The residents loved it. They talked a little too loudly during the play, but they were talking *about* the play, Gabe points out.

The next day, they were back on the couches. And Gabe reminded himself to keep doing the work he's been called to do, whether it produces immediate results or not.



Melissa Bundt with some Philadelphia girls she taught in Sunday school.

* * *

On its website (missionyear.org), MY makes this claim: "Little in life is as certain as this: Your Mission Year will change you forever ... even if you don't want it to."

Jared, a philosophy major, can't find a metaphor large enough to contain his feelings about the year: "Complete worldview shift. The world turned upside down and spun around 300 times. You're spinning, dizzy. Your old worldview was shot to pieces; you're trying to put the pieces together, but you don't even know if you have all the pieces."

"It was one of the hardest years of my life," Melissa says, "but I wouldn't trade it for anything."

All of the people I spoke with profess a renewed compassion for the poor. As Paul puts it, "We all make mistakes. Some mistakes rain harder on others."

Paul is concerned about having returned to what he calls a "bubble of whiteness." "After I got back, I got comfortable again, and I didn't like it." This summer, he's working in a Zambian

orphanage.

Some Mission Year alumni admit that inner-city ministry is not necessarily for them, or perhaps not at this time. Deborah and Melissa have young children, and so they take their cue from MY's "meet your neighbors" component to exercise their faith within a restricted schedule.

Melissa's Orange City neighbors know each other, she says. "But does it go beyond that?" Deborah says her current neighbors, in a middle-class area of Philadelphia, need God as much as those in poverty do.

* * *

These seven lives were changed; but what about the lives of those they served?

Julia says local homeless people acted as her protectors; who was helping whom? And how can these relatively rich kids share in the burdens of the poor when they—and those they serve—know they'll return to middle-class comfort in a year?

Perhaps the most poignant picture of the impact of this short-term service comes in the story of

Rick and Earlene, who lived in a van around the corner from Jared and Paul.

On the couple's wedding anniversary (Paul thinks it was their 42nd), the Mission Year team asked them over. Rick and Earlene opened the apartment door to a romantic, candlelit table set for two. The team played wait staff, serving Rick his favorite meal of steak; he couldn't remember the last time he had it.

The couple would still be homeless after that night, but Paul says the looks on their faces were glorious; the kingdom of God breaking through, illumined by candlelight.

* * *

When I spoke with Julia, she was on her cell phone. Absorbed in our conversation, she ended up at the beach instead of in inner-city Los Angeles, where she has chosen to live and work since graduating from both MY and NWC. She had sold most of her belongings—Mission Year teaches voluntary simplicity—in order to volunteer at an urban church called "Mosaic," work she finds fulfilling.

I could hear the seagulls and waves as she paused to breathe in the fresh, salty air. She said it was good for her to talk about Atlanta. When we finished our conversation, she pressed END and found her way back to the city—back home.



Currently a resident of a middle-class area of Philadelphia, Deborah Petersen seeks to apply the emphasis on meeting neighbors that she learned during a Mission Year experience in Oakland, Calif.

Home Work

California transplant and mom of five goes back to class

by Tamara Fynaardt

Driving west to campus from Granville, Cecilia Salazar phones her husband to see where he is today. New Mexico. On his way to

California. It will be six days before he is home again. He is a truck driver, his own boss. They are used to this.

Shannon did well on her math test, she tells him. Arlene has a cough. Sylvia

was tearful this morning, Caitlyn cheerful. Mother cooked menudo last night, and Aaron kept letting the dog in the house.

"He asked for you again this morning," she says.

"Tell him I'll be home soon," he replies.

She hangs up and looks in the rearview mirror, at the sun rising over the flat Iowa landscape. She thinks about the vineyards of the San



Cecilia Salazar—who is pursuing an English teaching degree at NWC—supervises the homework and activities of her five kids before hitting the books herself.

Joaquin Valley—about Delano, Calif., where she grew up. She's writing a paper about her hometown for her Literature of Place class.

* * *

Grapevines can be seen for miles. Their deep greens and perfect symmetry. Mouth-watering, plump grapes hang from their thick vines waiting to be picked and shipped all over the world. Fine wine can make a grown man cry.

Seasonal migrant workers stand at the end of our block waiting for their ride. They are working in the Sandrini field north of town. They pride themselves on being the finest grape-pickers in all of California.

This is a place where people are proud of who they are and proud of their children, even if they haven't figured out what they want to do in life.

* * *

Cecilia and her family are a long way from Delano. Two of her husband's 14 siblings followed as a dairy relocated from Delano to Granville. Cecilia and Aaron moved in 2001, and he bought his own semi and trailer. Since then, one of her sisters has journeyed to Iowa, along with her mother.

Delano is a place where—as Cecilia has written for class—"The women wear high-heeled shoes, tight blouses and short skirts that display their long legs and hefty backsides. Hispanic

women are known for their fine attributes."

Instead, Cecilia's kids are growing up in a place where people and communities are judged by their manicured lawns, clean streets and straight corn rows.

Cecilia and her extended



"I never really thought about what I wanted to do.

Growing up, I was never encouraged to ask, 'What am I good at?'"



family have found their new Midwestern home mostly accepting—and sometimes offensive. "Mexicans stink," states a small boy to six-year-old Arlene, who, with her siblings, is a third-generation American.

A mother of five kids ranging in age from 3 to 11, Cecilia values education. She's proud of her daughters, who attend Spalding Catholic School. They are smart, confident, opinionated. They talk of being doctors and veterinarians when they grow up.

She doesn't remember much from her school days and wonders at times, helping with her kids' homework, "Did I ever learn that?"

Instead she recalls gangs and the fistfights she used to get into in junior high. "My sister would give me pointers and warn me against backing down. People would come to the park after school to

watch the fights and wait for the police to come."

Cecilia hasn't told her kids about the fighting. She hasn't written about it. Instead, "I tell them education is important," she says. "I tell them going to college is non-negotiable. I'd be thrilled if they'd choose Northwestern."

Seeking to back her advice with example, Cecilia began taking college classes at Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon. She'd rediscovered a love for reading and writing when a neighbor, Jolynn Tonsfeldt, who teaches in NWC's education department, encouraged her to transfer to Northwestern to become a literature teacher. Cecilia is also bilingual—she learned Spanish from her Mexican husband—which is an increasingly sought-after skill, even in Iowa schools.

"I never really thought about what I wanted to do," she says. "Growing up, I was never encouraged to ask, 'What am I good at?'"

At 32, she's good at mothering and multitasking, homemaking and homework. She could use more sleep and fewer interruptions when she's trying to study.

She hopes she'll make a good teacher. "I think I will be understanding," she muses, "and give students time to work on assignments in class. Not every home has a computer. Children need more time with their families."

She appreciates that studying literature allows for

different perspectives—answers that aren't necessarily right or wrong. "Not everyone thinks the same," she says. The pursuit of truth involves discussion and sometimes disagreement—she's experienced this kind of community in her NWC literature and writing courses.

Cecilia arrives on campus, and in the hours before class, in the corner of the basement in Ramaker Library, among all the rich literature of the P section, distractions are minimal. No one is demanding a snack. No one is looking for crayons. No one is handing her notes from school about science fairs, costume parties or team sign-ups.

Cecilia is far away, visiting a place through her pen.

* * *

In Delano someone has caught a ride in a car without air-conditioning to work picking grapes under the hot sun for hours. He loves it.

The fields are part of the workers' religion. Some carry small bottles of dirt in their pockets from the fields they have worked in. They hold prayers in the fields, resembling pioneers of the past who owned and cherished the land.

They cling to a dream of prosperity that will deliver them and make them better people. A search for a better life has brought them here.

Having a Blast With the Past

Mike Kugler's ability to make history relevant to today earns him teaching award



Dr. Mike Kugler received the \$1,500 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award, sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Student Government Association, in May. He was chosen from among 18 professors who were nominated by students.

by Sherrie Barber Willson '98

Dr. Mike Kugler started his first Western Civ class at Northwestern by sitting among students as they filed in. Dressed in faded jeans, with a boyish face and demeanor, he easily passed for just another student until he finally stood up and shocked everyone by introducing himself as the teacher.

It seems like an appropriate start for a professor who still considers himself a fellow learner as much as a teacher, and

who has a unique ability to connect with and build trust among his students—qualities students cited when nominating him for this year's Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award.

At first glance, Kugler seems an unlikely history professor. An inveterate storyteller with a ready and dry sense of humor, he's given to side conversation trails and obscure pop culture references. He hardly fits the stereotype of the droning, dusty history prof.

But in fact, it's his love of stories (which he attributes to his mother) and lively interest in people—dead and alive—that drew him to history in the first place. And it's those qualities about history that he passionately wants to impart to students.

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“If I want students to think about the past and their faith, I can’t pretend it isn’t difficult for them to do. I have to model that for them and teach them to trust me.”

▲

“A lot of them come in hating history; they’re bored by it,” he acknowledges. “They have a minimum of curiosity, which isn’t surprising. We’re working with kids who have a lot of distractions and lots of reasons not to be readers and not to be curious about the world.

“What I have to do is translate stuff I want to talk about into something they care about. I have to convince them of history’s relevance.”

What is history’s relevance? According to Kugler, every time someone talks to you about something that’s important to them, chances are, they’re referencing the past as a way of showing

their passion. For example, he noted the Dutch fronts in Orange City are a way for residents to show what’s important to them.

“And anyone who is a follower of Jesus and thinks history doesn’t matter hasn’t read the Bible,” he adds. “It’s clear to me that the God of the Old and New Testament is a God who really cares about the past and wants his people to remember things.”

Kugler never planned on being a teacher. Self-described as “totally impractical,” he decided to go to grad school because he loved to read and didn’t want to get a job—and teaching is part of grad school. But he came to love teaching for giving him the chance to do his favorite things: perform in front of people and sit around discussing interesting stuff.

“I just try to be as natural and honest in the classroom as I can be,” Kugler says. “If I want students to think about the past and their faith, I can’t pretend it isn’t difficult for them to do. I have to model that for them and teach them to trust me, and one way you do that is by showing you’re vulnerable—admitting ‘I don’t understand, and I am frustrated.’”

“Students are willing to entertain a lot of ideas that appear strange to them if they believe you’re not just trying to confuse them or

make them angry, and that you’re going through the same thing.”

Kugler constantly changes his classes’ format. He does lecture some, but since a lot of students are interested in war, he’ll also have them read poetry and literature written by soldiers about their experiences in battle. He’ll show films like *Das Boot* and *Cabaret* that help students understand what living in a certain period or in a certain situation was like. And of course, he tells stories—from the past, from his own past, whatever will create an opening for students to see something in a new light.

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“A lot of students come in hating history; they’re bored by it. They have a minimum of curiosity, which isn’t surprising. We’re working with kids who have a lot of distractions and lots of reasons not to be readers and not to be curious about the world.”

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“He is one of the best professors I’ve ever had,” wrote sophomore Julie Hagmeier in nominating Kugler for the teaching

award. “He genuinely cares that I understand what I’ve read for class. He has a good sense of humor, and that helps a lot with keeping me focused on what he’s talking about, because history can be boring at times.”

And don’t think that just because Kugler teaches history, he’s only interested in the past. Kugler spends as much time in his classes talking about contemporary culture and issues as he does about events from hundreds or thousands of years ago.

“He makes history come alive by taking someone from history and putting what they have done into relevance to today’s world, showing how it has affected us today,” wrote sophomore Rachel Sanford.

Such affirmation is welcome, of course, especially since more times than not, Kugler leaves class frustrated with himself for failing to translate what he cares about into something students care about. But receiving the award also makes him feel uncomfortable.

“It’s nice to get recognized. But the best teaching that goes on at Northwestern is collaborative, so there’s something very inappropriate about me being singled out for this,” he says. “Anything I get as a notice for my teaching ought to be an acknowledgment of a lot of people around here.”

Takedown

Paul Bartlett leaves legacy as he steps off the mat

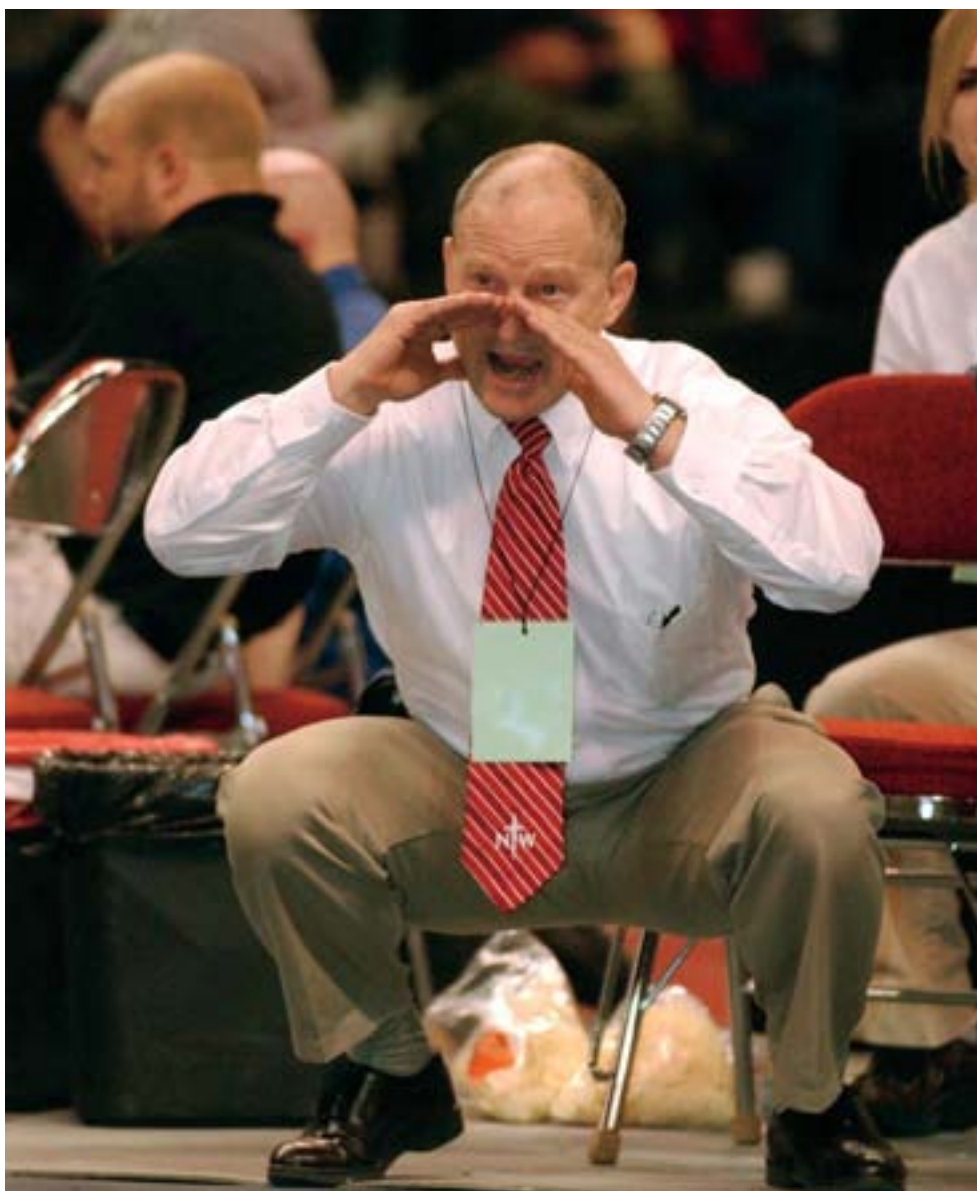
by Duane Beeson

Aaron Schmidt '03 remembers an experience in his first year as an assistant wrestling coach under Paul Bartlett. At a national coaches' meeting, he witnessed the respect Bartlett commanded.

"Coaches were talking—there were guys there who had won a number of national championships. Then Coach Bartlett starts talking, and everyone shuts up," says Schmidt. "He's never won a team championship or had a national champion, but everyone acts like he's dominated the sport. From a leadership aspect, he *has* dominated the sport."

Jody Walsh '86 recalls a match in his senior year. Walsh was about 30-3, nationally ranked, and needed only one pin to break the conference record. The match didn't go well; he won but without the pin he wanted. The heavyweight reacted by throwing a fit.

"Coach Bartlett came unglued—in a positive way. He told me I was done if I was going to have that attitude," says Walsh. "We had been pretty tight, I was his meal ticket, and he was



Paul Bartlett coached more than 100 national qualifiers, 20 All-Americans and nine Scholar-Athletes. But the NAIA Team Sportsmanship Award his squads received in 2006 and 2004 better summarizes his impact on the Red Raider program.

going to get rid of me. He got over it—and I ran a lot of laps.”

Rik Dahl '96 tells of getting into some trouble as a sophomore. Bartlett didn't need to say anything for Dahl to know he had disappointed his coach.

“The fact I had disappointed him was gut-wrenching. The way he handled it was amazing—I knew he cared about me and wanted me to get through it and succeed. His belief in me and compassion were two of the things that led me to Jesus.”

When Northwestern announced Bartlett's resignation as coach this spring, hundreds of men who wrestled for him during the past 22 years at Northwestern began remembering stories.

Stories of a man who taught them about prayer, integrity and what it meant to be a good husband and father.

Stories of a coach who always wore a shirt and tie at matches and only objected to an official if he had a good case.

Stories of a mentor who wanted his wrestlers to push themselves physically, but was even more concerned about their spiritual conditioning.

Their stories were made possible by his.

A natural talent

The son of a high school orchestra director and golf coach in Lansing, Mich., Bartlett had a simple introduction to wrestling. In a seventh grade physical edu-

cation unit, he learned the basics. At the end of the unit, Bartlett, an experienced gymnast, won the intramural wrestling competition.

On the high school team, Bartlett struggled as a freshman but began having success in his second year. His coach had been a silver medalist in the 1968 Olympics, and Bartlett became his project.

As a junior, he finished second in the state, won the national tournament in freestyle, and placed third in the junior world wrestling championships in Tokyo. The 112-pounder won the national title again the next year. When national champion Iowa State University offered him a scholarship, he packed his bags for Ames.

“I had it all planned out. I would be a national champion a couple of years and then go to the Olympics in 1976,” says Bartlett.

His dream seemed pinned to the mat, though, when he didn't make the varsity squad. Devastated, he plunged into the party scene.

Wrestling With God

“There was a Christian on the team who had joy and contentment—everything I didn't have,” Bartlett says. “I was doing better than him, but he was happier than me. It ticked me off.”

His teammate shared the gospel with him, and Bartlett experienced an immediate transformation. “I instantly sensed that contentment. It was clear something was dif-

ferent,” he explains.

After he became a Christian, though, Bartlett's wrestling performance suffered. He thought the sport was keeping him from God, so he slacked off. Gradually he began to understand he could glorify God by working hard at wrestling. With his priorities in order, he finished second in the Big Eight Conference as a senior and advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA national tournament.

Bartlett's understanding that all of life is a gift from God—to be enjoyed and used to serve him—has been a message he's often shared with his wrestlers. He's also emphasized the importance of giving your best effort, frequently quoting Ecclesiastes 9:10, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.”

Bartlett had that exhortation in mind when he resigned from wrestling so he could focus on his role as a kinesiology professor. Hired to spend 60 percent of his time on academics, he had come to realize the growing demands of his coaching position.

“I felt my feet were on two pieces of ice floating in opposite directions,” he explains. “It's hard to do a good job. Maybe it's OK to be a jack of all trades and a master of none, but I don't like being mediocre.”

A legacy in lives

Wrestling will still be part of Bartlett's life. The guy whose coaching style involved

demonstrating moves on the mat with his wrestlers would like to help mentor young coaches. With previous experience leading sports evangelism projects in Eastern Europe and Latin America, he might find opportunities to assist wrestling programs in developing countries.

As he reflects on his coaching tenure, he says the highlights aren't the wins and awards. Instead, he recounts the stories—of young men who struggled with academic eligibility but finally graduated, of wrestlers who came to NWC without faith and now are living for the Lord.

Stories of guys like Aaron Schmidt. A member of both the football and wrestling teams, Schmidt found the quick seasonal switch into wrestling to be stressful. Following a loss as a sophomore, he decided to quit.

“I told Coach Bartlett, and what he did really blew me away,” says Schmidt. “He had the rest of the team to tend to, but he said, ‘Whatever you decide is OK.’”

“Then he put his arm around me and asked to pray with me. That really made an impact—it said he wanted me to direct my frustrations where they should be directed and let God handle those things.”

Paul Bartlett stands only 5'3" and tips the scales at 165. But as with Schmidt, he towers in the memories of many Northwestern wrestling alumni.

Tim Vink

Church Planter

Passion for the lost motivates Tim Vink's work for the RCA

by Anita Cirulis



As the Reformed Church in America's coordinator of church multiplication, the Rev. Tim Vink eventually hopes to see 100 new churches being planted every year.

Ninety percent of churches in the Reformed Church in America (RCA) today haven't directly planted a church in their life cycle.

Tim Vink '87 is out to change that.

As the coordinator of church multiplication for the denomination, he is leading an effort to plant 400 new churches by 2013.

"By 1998, we planted 98 churches over 10 years," Vink says of the RCA. "By the end of our 10-year goal, we'll be planting about 100 new churches a year. We've never been part of a church multiplication movement like this before. My job is to create the capacity and momentum for churches to plant churches."

Vink felt the call to be a pastor while a high school

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"It really starts with a passion for lost people. You have to really believe in your gut that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world and everyone needs to meet him."
 ▲

student at American Reformed Church in Luverne, Minn. His parents were charter members of the church, which was founded just 10 years before he was born.

Vink enrolled at Northwestern with the goal of preparing for the ministry. Committed to his denomination, he was drawn by the college's strong spiritual focus. Friends attending NWC also influenced his choice, as did a basketball scholarship.

"It was a wonderful training ground," he says of his years at Northwestern. "I learned a great deal."

Injured as a freshman, Vink had the opportunity to red shirt in basketball but turned it down.

"I came to college to prepare for seminary," he says. He majored in religion, and after earning his degree from Northwestern, married his college sweetheart, Dana Van Maanen '87. The next spring they left for California, where Tim enrolled in Fuller Seminary.

Three years later, after graduating with a Master of Divinity degree, he and Dana returned to Iowa, where Tim became associate pastor at Maurice Reformed Church. In five years with that congregation, he started 10 new ministries and worked with a core group to plant a church in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Vink's involvement with the Spirit Lake congregation came through the encouragement of John Sikkink, a member of the Regional

Synod of the Heartland staff. At Sikkink's urging, Vink and his wife spent a week at the RCA assessment center to determine if he had the gifts and talents to be a church planter.

While at Maurice Reformed Church, Vink also served on Northwestern's Board of Trustees, an experience that taught him about finances and working with donors.

▼

"We need more people who are impacting their world for Christ 24/7. Those are the leaders in church planting movements as much as church pastors are."

▲

"Dr. Bultman was a wonderful mentor," he says of Northwestern's president at the time. "I was impressed by how he loved the students and knew their names. There was a winsome way about him, and he was a visionary leader. His example was another way I received training for leadership in the church."

In 1996, Vink accepted the call to become senior pastor of Tulare Community Church in the California Classis with the understanding that it would be a church-planting church. At the time, there were just 12 churches in the classis, none that were reproducing directly.

Tulare planted nine churches during his tenure, and Vink became the classis minister and steward of the church-planting vision. He was serving as Tulare's church-planting missionary when he was asked to lead the multiplication efforts for the RCA.

"It really starts with a passion for lost people," he says. "You have to really believe in your gut that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world and everyone needs to meet him."

Vink calls leadership the most critical piece to church planting. Realizing that col-

leges and seminaries are the pools for that leadership, he wants to work with those institutions to develop curriculum devoted to church planting and multiplication.

"We really need to recapture transforming society for the kingdom of God," he says. "Northwestern does a wonderful job of creating the next generation of leaders and sending people into the marketplace. We need more people who are impacting their world for Christ 24/7. Those are the leaders in church planting movements as much as church pastors are."



A summer that changed my life ...

Hundreds of Northwestern students have participated in Summer of Service projects since the early 1980s. Many have reported life-changing experiences.

The Classic is planning a feature article in the summer 2007 issue about the long-term impact SOS projects have made on graduates' lives. If you are an SOS alum, we'd like to know how that experience affected you. Did it change the direction of your life? Influence your career choice? Inspire you to make volunteerism a regular component of your life? Lead to a closer walk with Christ?

If you have stories to tell, please respond to classic@nwciowa.edu.

Ofcourse

Taking work home



With the Andes Mountains, Ecuador is known as "The Switzerland of South America."

Class:

GEN 350: Topics in Cross-Cultural Studies: Ecuador

Instructor:

Rick Clark, instructor in Spanish

Good teaching comes from life.

Spanish professor Rick Clark believes that, so this summer he's teaching a course from home. Born and raised by missionary parents in Ecuador, Clark is teaching a language and culture class that features his hometown—Quito—and one-half of his bilingual language skills: Spanish. And his trip assistant is his mom, who speaks Spanish fluently and lived in Ecuador most of her life.

"I really feel like I'm taking these students home," says Clark of the nine students who will join him in Ecuador July 2 through Aug. 1.

Hosted by the Andean Study Center, students will

learn about Ecuadorian culture and society from guest experts and professors at the center. They also will study conversational Spanish, tailored to their individual skill levels, with Clark and their host families.

Clark predicts the students' language learning will be dramatic. "You take a semester of Spanish and spend three hours a week in class. Lectures and quizzes are in English. With this class, it will be 24/7. The students could learn as much in three weeks as they do in a whole semester."

Field trips

Weekly field trips will enable the students to experience the geographic diversity of Ecuador, a country about the size of Colorado that includes mountains, jungles and beaches. They will visit the middle of the world, climb a volcano and tour the Isla de la Plata, known as the "poor man's Galapagos."

Beyond the visual splendor, though, Clark says, "I hope students get a bigger picture of God and his world. An experience like that is huge for their development as Christians."

Clark will bring the students to the headquarters of World Radio Missionary Fellowship, which was founded by his four grandparents in the 1930s and now broadcasts in over 20

languages and can be received by shortwave radio anywhere in the world.

The class also includes service-learning in Akaro, one of the remote villages populated by members of the Huarani tribe. The Huaranis' story—their conversion to Christianity after tribe members murdered five missionaries in the 1950s—was recently made into a film, *End of the Spear*.

Class surroundings

White walls, blackboard, hard chairs? Take this quiz to learn more about the students' study space.

1. What islands—known for their biological diversity—are west off the coast of Ecuador?
 - a. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
 - b. Galapagos Islands
 - c. Cape Verde
 - d. Falkland Islands
2. How does Ecuador compare to the U.S. with regard to numbers of bird species?
 - a. Ecuador has twice as many species of birds.
 - b. The U.S. has twice as many species of birds.
 - c. The two countries are nearly equal when it comes to numbers of bird species.
 - d. Ecuador has the largest number of bird species in the world.
3. Ecuador has tapped into the American flower market with which blooms?
 - a. orchids
 - b. carnations
 - c. roses
 - d. tulips
4. The students' field trips will include some of the best _____ in the world.
 - a. snorkeling
 - b. whale watching
 - c. mountain climbing
 - d. parrot conversation
5. Ecuador is the world's second largest producer of which product?
 - a. coffee
 - b. oil
 - c. llama wool
 - d. bananas

Answers: b, a, a, c, b, d

Spring sports



Freshman Jake Jansen (Oak Harbor, Wash.) races to second in a win over Doane. The Red Raiders qualified for the postseason conference tournament for the first time in five years.

Baseball

- Finished 19-21 overall and 10-10 in Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) play, good for seventh place.
- Grant Wall (freshman, Mountain Lake, Minn.) earned Region III and GPAC player of the week honors.
- Head Coach Dave Nonnemacher was the GPAC coach of the year.

Softball

- Finished with a 36-15 record and placed third in the GPAC with a 17-5 mark.
- Fifth in the final Region III rankings.
- Junior Megan McHugh (Missouri Valley, Iowa) was a GPAC pitcher of the week, and freshman Stacey Lyon (Artesia, Calif.) was a league player of the week.
- Senior Ashley Ratliff

(Anaheim, Calif.) was fifth in the NAIA in putouts per game with 8.15. She finished as Northwestern's career leader in putouts with 1,621.

- Two Red Raiders were all-region picks: McHugh and Lyon.

Track and field

- Junior Robbie Cundy (Madison, S.D.) set a school record in the 400-meter hurdles (53.2 seconds), and sophomore Miranda Boekhout (Marcus, Iowa) set the school mark in the triple jump (34-11).
- The men's team placed fifth at the conference meet; the women placed seventh.
- Cundy qualified for the national meet in the 400-meter hurdles and the 110-meter high hurdles. Nick Fynaardt (New Sharon, Iowa) qualified in the shot

put and the discus. The junior was the outdoor GPAC meet champ in the shot put (54-10.75).

Men's golf

- Junior Dan Laaveg (Forest City, Iowa) was the GPAC golfer of the year, earning first place at the conference meet.
- The Red Raiders took second place at the conference meet and qualified for regional play, where they placed fourth.

- Laaveg, David Klyn (junior, Pella, Iowa), TJ Korver (junior, Orange City) and Brady Baker (senior, Orange City) were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes, and the squad earned NAIA Scholar Team honors.

Women's golf

- Placed first at the Waldorf tourney.
- Placed fourth at the regional meet.

Raiders appoint two coaches

Northwestern's wrestling and baseball programs will have new coaches for the 2006-07 school year. John Petty will take the reins in wrestling, while Brian Wede will lead the baseball team.



John Petty

Petty replaces Paul Bartlett, who will continue in his role as professor of kinesiology.

From 2003 to 2006, Petty served as head coach at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. He led his team to 30 wins, coaching 15 All-Americans and six Scholar-Athletes. His 2005 squad earned regional championship status and the national Champion of Character Sportsmanship Award. Petty was also the regional coach of the year that season. In 2006, Embry-Riddle finished fifth at the NAIA national championships.

Wede, who served as an assistant baseball coach this year, replaces Dave Nonnemacher, who will move to an assistant's role while continuing as Northwestern's service learning coordinator.



Brian Wede

Wede has enjoyed coaching success at the high school level, leading South O'Brien to the state championship game in 2004. He began his stint at South O'Brien in 2001 and has a five-year career record of 80-72. Under his tutelage, 22 players have earned all-conference honors, nine have been all-district and three have received all-state recognition.

Alumni*corner*



Karen Woudstra '79
Director of Alumni
and Parent Relations

Five years ago, God put a call on my heart to leave kindergarten teaching and take the job of director of alumni and parent relations for Northwestern. It was a leap of faith.

My first year included ups and downs as I plunged in, learning and doing things I had never done before. I was humbled as I depended on God to fix all the inadequacies I felt. I've come to thoroughly enjoy leading Northwestern's relationship-building efforts with alumni and parents, and I've grown tremendously.

This summer, I'm taking another leap of faith as I conclude my role at NWC. This time, God is pushing me to jump, and I admit I don't yet know where I'm jumping to! But I feel God calling me to be obedient by changing my pace and lifestyle. I know God will teach me new lessons. I'm praying for patience as I wait for God's leading and the next open door.

God wants all of us to use our gifts and passions to both follow the desires he puts in our hearts and impact the world for him. Many times we are too busy to look back and see how God's hand has directed our lives. We miss seeing his blessings and promises. And yet witnessing God's hand at work in our past is what enables us to trust him in the future.

Working in Northwestern's alumni office gave me the opportunity to meet many people and hear many stories of what has happened in alums' lives since they left NWC. It has been so meaningful to see how God works to bring people or events together for his purposes.

He directs students, professors, staff, board members and others who come to Northwestern to impact each others' lives. He directed me here as a student and again as an employee for the past five years. I've been so blessed. And I'm so grateful.

I encourage everyone—instead of waiting five years or for the next big change—to take time now and often to stop, look back and see God's hand at work, weaving people, places and events together so our lives will be enriched and his purposes will be brought to fruition (one of the big words I've learned in this job!).

You will likely be amazed, as I am, to see where God's plans have taken you—whether good or difficult, known or unknown—and how you've grown because of them. Blessings to all as you continue to serve God wherever he has called you.

Deaths

Eunice (Straks '26) DeJong, age 98, died March 1 in Aurora, Colo. After graduating from Northwestern Academy and Central College, she taught in Newkirk, Iowa. She and her husband, Cornelius ("Bud"), pastored churches in Washington, Kan., and Marion, Iowa, before moving to Aurora in 1955 to pastor First Presbyterian Church. She served alongside her husband, singing in the choir, working in women's ministry and also serving as president of the Presbyterian Women of Denver Presbytery. She was also dedicated to Presbyterian Mariners, a marriage and family ministry. She is survived by two children.

Andrew Vander Zee, age 95, died March 27 in Holland, Mich. A graduate of Calvin College, he taught English and speech at Northwestern Junior College from 1949 to 1956. He earned master's degrees from the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin. He retired as a librarian from Hope College in 1972, but served as the college's part-time archivist until 1988. He was a member of Graafschap Christian Reformed Church.

Kathryn (Raman '31, '33) Wagner died Feb. 4, 2005, in Harrisburg, Pa. After graduating from Northwestern, she taught in Iowa and Michigan before serving with the American Red Cross in Europe during World War II. She later taught in Japan and Pennsylvania, retiring in 1975. She was an active volunteer, teaching English as a second language and serving the Salvation Army and a local hospital.

Wilma Vander Ploeg-De Ruyter '34, age 91, died Feb. 18 in Sioux Center. After receiving her teaching certificate from Northwestern Junior College, she taught in rural schools and in Sioux Falls, where she received a bachelor's degree in education from Augustana College. She also taught at Kinsey Elementary in

Sioux Center for 17 years. She was a member of Central Reformed Church, where she sang in the choir and taught Sunday school, catechism and vacation Bible school. She also belonged to the local Woman's Club and the Retired Teachers Association. She is survived by three children and three step-children.

Dr. John Edward Hibma '36, '38, age 87, died Feb. 11 at his home in Grand Rapids, Mich. After graduating from Northwestern, he served as a chaplain's assistant in World War II. He then continued his education at the University of Missouri, Central College and Western Theological Seminary before receiving a doctoral degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. He ministered in several Reformed churches in Michigan and California, and also served as the Protestant chaplain of the Michigan Veterans Facility. He was active as a board member for many schools, including the California Christian College Association and Western Theological Seminary. His survivors include his wife, **Betty (Bronkema '38)**, 13 children and four siblings, including **Anna Schaap '38, '39** and **Alida Topp '40, '42**.

Peter Van Leerdam '55, '57, age 75, died March 8 in Aumsville, Ore. Born in Massdijk, the Netherlands, he immigrated to Canada in 1953 and then moved to the United States to attend Northwestern. He worked for several airlines in Anchorage, Alaska, before moving to McMinnville, Ore., where he and his wife, **Hilda (Westhoff '56)**, owned and operated The Travel Bureau for 19 years. They also spent many years working in property management. Survivors include his wife, their three children and five siblings.

Remembering Good Times

Members of the 1956 academy and junior college classes celebrated their 50th reunion as part of Heritage Day on May 12. Academy graduates from 1941 also gathered, commemorating their 65th reunion. To see group photos from the 1956 reunions, visit www.nwciowa.edu/reunionphotos.



Freida (Pollema '56) Vander Sluis, left, and Thelma (Jouwstra '56) Haverdink, center, catch up with Annie (Powell '56) Jackson.



Dr. Marvin Hoff '56 and Betty (Aalberts '56) Vander Zwaag enjoy a laugh following the Heritage Day luncheon.



Gene Haverdink '56, right, welcomes Glen Kuiper '56 to their class reunion. Leroy Intveld '56 looks on.



Marcia (Hubers) Zwiep and Henrietta (De Groot) Vander Weerd were among the 1941 academy alumni who celebrated their reunion at the Heritage Day luncheon.

Prayercorner



The Rev. Harlan
VanOort '82
Chaplain

Prayer is a source and result of community. It connects people to God and each other.

Under the clutter of my desk, there is a photo of a boy I baptized many years ago. Whenever I notice the picture, I pray for him. In a wonderfully mysterious way, we remain in community in the presence of God, though I have not seen him in years, and in fact, don't even know where he is.

On a Spring Service Project trip to Bluefields, Nicaragua, our team bonded with children who impressed us with their faith built on a solid foundation. We sang together in Spanish, "If you build your life on the rock that is Christ, you will be victorious." Months later, I find myself still interceding on their behalf.

In the book of Colossians, Paul writes to a church he had not started or visited: "In our prayers for you we always thank God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints." Prayer was the obvious result of their oneness in Christ.

As you read this, another group of freshmen is preparing to join the Northwestern community. They don't realize it, but prayers for them began long before their upcoming arrival on campus. Those students already are part of the communal dimension of the college's prayer life.

Every person associated with Northwestern is part of this praying community—students, alumni, past and present employees, friends and supporters. You are part of this community. Talk to God about Northwestern College, and be joined in remembering one another.

Class notes

'62

Charles "Joe" Suttle, Richmond, Calif., was recently promoted to field service manager for VOICE-PRO, a telecommunication and voicemail system provider. He has worked for VOICEPRO for 10 years as a senior engineer and group manager involved with computer networking and application programming.

'66

Ivan Mulder recently retired from his position as administrator of the

Christian Benevolent Association, a senior living campus in Pella, Iowa. He serves as part-time manager of Fair Haven West, a federal government affordable housing project for seniors in Pella.

'68

Kathy (de Jonge) Alles, Grand Haven, Mich., helped found Re-Member, an outreach to the Oglala Lakota Indian community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She now serves as a board member.

'70

Kent Eknes was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and retired from teaching last year. He serves as an adjunct professor at Northwest Iowa Community College and mayor of Rock Valley, Iowa.

'71

The Rev. Everett Bosch serves as the associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Great Falls, Mont.

Linda (Oosterholt) Kuiken retired from the Des Moines Public Schools after teaching math and physics there for 18 years. She was a state-level finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching three times and had attained national board certification. She and husband, **Les '70**, have moved to a summer home in Slayton, Minn., where they will spend summers between itinerant teaching assignments. Her first opportunity is at Robert College in Istanbul, Turkey, where she has a two-year contract to teach math. Les will look for employment after they arrive.

'72

Pete Zevenbergen, Kansas City, Kan., recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. He is in his 25th year as director of a mental health agency, currently serving as chief executive officer of Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare in Kansas City, Kan.

'73

Cornie Wassink, Alton, Iowa, wrote an article that was published in the spring issue of *Officials' Quarterly*. His article describes the development of the Iowa Association of Track Officials' Recommended Procedures Manual.

'76

The Rev. David Boogerd serves as pastor of St. John's United Church

of Christ in Ackley, Iowa.

Jay DeZeeuw, Newton, Iowa, serves as an assistant principal at Newton High School and as the activities director at Newton Berg Middle School.

Gary Geiken, Prior Lake, Minn., has been named CEO of Indiewood Training and Development. His company offers a variety of training sessions that have been taught in over 100 schools nationwide and implemented by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and over two dozen corporations.

'77

Mark Davis was recently appointed head of school at Lexington (Mass.) Christian Academy. He and his wife, **Rose (Schmidt '78)**, and children Liza and Nate (both 14) moved to Boston this summer after spending six years in Philadelphia.

'79

Deb (Brommer) Tensen, Cedar Falls, Iowa, was one of 10 Black Hawk County teachers selected to receive the Gold Star Award for outstanding teaching. Deb teaches special education at River Hills School and recently completed a master's degree in education. Her husband, **Doug '80**, is the director of adult groups and spiritual growth at Orchard Hill Church. They have two children: Annie, a junior at NWC, and Elliot, 17.

'81

Kelly Kruger is the new head women's basketball coach at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colo. In 14 years as head women's coach at Southwest Minnesota State University, his teams compiled a 244-164 record.

'83

Michelle Levigne, North Royalton, Ohio, continues to write books in genres of science fiction, fantasy and romance. Her book *The Dreamer's Loom* was recently pub-



2006 National Alumni Board

Members of Northwestern's National Alumni Board include (front row, left to right): Todd Van Wechel '86, Steve Van Gorp '96, Dave Hughes '86, Nancy (Walhof '87) Landhuis, Dan Van Beek '92, Dave Dunkelberger '85, Curt Mastbergen '84, Darren Kleis '92; (second row) Sharla (Vander Wilt '83) Clemens, Karen (Hop '74) Van Der Maaten, Cheri (Block '77) Meyn, Laurie (Aykens '97) Kurtz, Brian Draayer '91, Evonne (Vander Wilt '82) Blankers, Edna (Moss '66) Mast, Laurie (Wipperling '92) Van Engelenhoven, Dana (Smith '93) Daniels; (back row) Karen (De Boer '79) Woudstra, Dawn Huibregtse '98, Dean Koele '83, Tonya Van Peursem '94, Marilyn (Tjeerdsma '78) Feekes, Laura (Katt '79) Lubach and Rick Starkenburg '92.

lished by Amber Quill Press. *Lorien* won a 2006 EPPIE Award, which honors electronically published books, in the inspirational category, while *Bitter Sweet* was a finalist in the fantasy category. For more information, visit her website at www.mlevigne.com.

'85

Dan Addington, Chicago, recently featured a large exhibition of his paintings at the Malton Gallery in Cincinnati in a show entitled "Divine Inspiration." Check it out at www.maltonartgallery.com/events.

Johan Godwaldt, Oswego, N.Y., recently was honored for lighting design by the regional Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The technical director in the theatre department at SUNY Oswego, he also received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service from the State University of New York.

'87

Valerie (Dittmer) King, Marshalltown, Iowa, is a self-employed

graphic designer, stay-at-home mom and president of her Parent Teacher Association. She directs the choir and bell choir at First Presbyterian Church, where her husband, **Rich '86**, is the pastor and head of staff.

'88

Jill (Pals) Hulsing teaches eighth grade reading and language arts at Grinnell (Iowa) Middle School and coaches softball at Grinnell High School. She has served as vice president of the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association for the past two years and will assume the presidency in the fall.

'89

Randy Biery, Eldridge, Iowa, a photographer for KWQC in Davenport, recently received a 2006 Wilbur Award in the TV/Local News category for a documentary, "In God We Trust," created with reporter Fran Riley. The annual Wilbur Awards are presented by the Religion Communication Council (RCC) to recognize outstanding work in the secular media featuring

religious issues, themes and values. Biery and Riley conducted interviews and shot video footage at the New Mellary Abbey in Dubuque to produce a two-part series depicting the lives of monks living in the abbey. The award was presented at the national convention of the RCC in Dallas.

Holly Donaghy, Vernon Hills, Ill., is a paralegal for New Century Investor Services. She also serves as a political consultant and is coordinating a state senate campaign.

Jeff Herzberg serves as superintendent in the Sibley-Ocheyedan (Iowa) School District. His wife, **Wendy (Stonehocker)**, is the recreation director for the city of Sibley. They have six children.

'90

Randy Ross lives in Des Moines with his daughter, Audrey (7). He works for The Parable Group, a California-based independent retail marketing and business solutions company.

'92

Kenneth Hayes recently graduated with a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from the University of Northern Iowa. He currently serves as associate principal at Marshalltown (Iowa) High School.

Ken Slater is the new principal and head girls' basketball coach at Galva-Holstein (Iowa) High School. He previously served as a guidance counselor and coach at North Scott High School in Eldridge, Iowa. In his five years as head girls' basketball coach at North Scott, his teams compiled a 78-39 record, including a conference championship and a state tournament appearance.

'93

Erin (Christensen) Schlittenhart, Kaneohe, Hawaii, serves as the education and discipleship minister at PaliView Baptist Church and teaches Bible at Hawaii Baptist Academy in Honolulu.

'94

Craig Douma is the new business education teacher and head boys' basketball coach at Carroll (Iowa) High School. He previously taught and coached at South O'Brien High School in Paullina, Iowa, where he guided the team to the state tournament this year.

Ross Douma is the new boys' basketball coach and social studies teacher at Waukee (Iowa) High School. He previously served as head coach at Chicago Christian High School, where his teams compiled a 75-36 record and won two consecutive regional titles. He also received coach of the year honors from the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association.



Kurt Dykstra, Holland, Mich., was recently named partner in the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd. He is also a lecturer in the department of economics,

Mini**profile**

Newsroom to classroom change yields rewards

by Franklin Yartey '06

A newspaper reporter and editor for 17 years, Dr. Sherrie Wilson '77 did not plan to become a college professor. But many future journalists are glad she did.

Wilson, who gained practical teaching experience mentoring young reporters in newsrooms in Iowa and Minnesota, is recognized as a gifted educator. She was honored this spring as one of nine faculty members at the University of Nebraska in Omaha (UNO) to receive the Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award.

Wilson has taught communication courses at UNO since 1996, joining the faculty after five years of doctoral degree study at the University of Minnesota.

The professor receives numerous thank yous from her advisees and students with whom she works one-on-one.

Sophomore April Burress of UNO describes Wilson as a dedicated teacher who will go out of her way to make sure students succeed.

"A few months ago I turned in a scholarship application that I was unaware needed a letter of recommendation. I called Dr. Wilson the night before it



Sherrie Wilson received an Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award from the University of Nebraska in Omaha this spring.

was due, and she took the time to write a letter for me. Not many teachers would do that for a student," says Burress.

▼

"I love working with students. I like the fact that I can have an impact on students' lives, both by what I teach but also by the example I set and the conversations we have one-on-one."

▲

Sophomore journalism major Abby Supenski describes Wilson as approachable and knowledgeable. "She is always well prepared for class. Dr. Wil-

son is able to clearly explain difficult concepts to the class and is always open for questions."

So what about teaching excites Wilson?

"I love working with students. I like the fact that I can have an impact on students' lives, both by what I teach but also by the example I set and the conversations we have one-on-one."

Wilson incorporates discussions and small-group work, which keep her students engaged in her classes. "Sometimes I feel pulled in many directions because of the demands on a college professor to do teaching, research and service. Balancing that can be difficult, but I always try to remember that the students are the reason I'm here."

management and accounting at Hope College and serves on the Friendship House building committee at Western Theological Seminary.

Shanda (Van Riesen) Knight serves as the director of children and family ministries at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa.

'95

Michele Jones, Redlands, Calif., recently edited a supplementary text for English language learners. She teaches eighth grade humanities in the Desert Sands Unified School District.

Chad Noble, Sioux Falls, was recently promoted to manager at Capital Card Services.

'96

Michelle (Van Zante) De Bruin, Pella, Iowa, is a stay-at-home mom to two boys, Mark (5) and John (2). Her husband, Tom, is the service manager at Steenhoek Implement Co.

Mitch Elbert, Urbandale, Iowa, was recently named head football coach at Des Moines Hoover High School. He previously served as the head football and track coach at Ponca (Neb.) High School, where he led the team to three conference championships and one district title.

Valerie (Garner) Gregersen teaches seventh and eighth grade math at Second Baptist School in Houston. Her husband, Bart, former Colenbrander RD, is a college guidance counselor at Houston Christian High School. They have two girls, Stephanie (5) and Cora (3).

Barbara (Nemec) Larson, Sioux Falls, serves as financial operations manager for M Realty. Her husband, Todd, works as an underwriter at Wells Fargo.

'97

Clint Hogrefe, Meriden, Iowa, recently completed a Master of Divinity degree at North American

Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls. He now serves as senior pastor of Oakdale Evangelical Free Church.

'98

Chris Mochring was recently promoted to sergeant of the Carlisle (Iowa) Police Department.

'99

Kirk Johnson, Remsen, Iowa, serves as the middle/high school principal at Remsen-Union.

Randy Smit was recently hired to teach in the retail management department at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City.

Manda (Nelson) Van Kalsbeek, Sioux City, serves as the development and marketing specialist for the Sioux Trails Girl Scouts. Her husband, **B.J.**, is the manager of pastoral care and a chaplain for Mercy Medical Center.

'00

Nathan Agre, Burnsville, Minn., was recently promoted to a manager position in the accounting and auditing department of the accounting firm of Blanski Peter Kronlage & Zoch.

Dr. Anne (Neerhof) Hellbusch, Sioux City, is beginning her third and final year of family practice residency. Her husband, **Austin**, continues to teach sixth grade science at Dakota Valley Schools in North Sioux City, S.D. He also coaches high school varsity boys' basketball.

'01

Mitch Aalbers, Sioux Center, is an employment specialist for Hope Haven in Rock Valley.

Kendra (Schutt) Carlson, Clive, Iowa, recently graduated with a master's degree in education. Her husband, **Gabe '00**, earned a master's in physical education.

Amber Davis, Chicago, serves as children's ministry coordinator at

Urban Vineyard. She is also assistant parade coordinator for the second annual Brothers and Sisters United for Christ Foundation Family Christian Parade and Unity Festival.

Matt Foss, Chicago, recently accepted a teaching fellowship in the Ph.D. program at Wayne State University in Detroit. He plans to pursue a doctorate in theatre studies and directing.

Jacob Koczman, Indianapolis, recently bettered the USA Indoor National Championship and 2006 World Indoor Championship qualifying standards with his runner-up finish in the 800-meter race at the Iowa State University Classic. A 2004 Olympic Trials finalist in the 800, he is eligible for the USA World Indoor Team. He trains with the Indiana Invaders, a track and field team comprised of elite athletes.

Sara Lamb serves as the youth ministry director at First United Presbyterian Church in Winterset, Iowa.

Ryan Petersen recently completed a Master of Divinity degree at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Justin Schrock continues to serve as youth pastor of Maurice (Iowa) First Reformed Church. His wife, **Vicki (Dykstra)**, is pursuing a nursing degree and running a photography business.

Amy Timmerman, Bethel, Alaska, recently graduated with honors from the University of Alaska-Anchorage with a master's degree in K-12 school counseling and guidance. She will teach at Bethel Regional High School/Junior High this fall, working with the truant student population.

'02

Nathan and Stephanie (Ells '03) Huisman recently graduated with Master of Divinity degrees from Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Mich. They are seeking a pastorate in the Reformed Church in America.

Natalie (Bosma) Sandbulte was recently hired as an instructor of psychology at Dordt College. She is pursuing a doctoral degree in clinical psychology at Wheaton College, where she also completed a master's degree.

Kristi (Kuiken) Steenhoeck, Phoenix, recently graduated from Grand Canyon University with a bachelor's degree in nursing. She works in the emergency room of St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix.

Sarah Yoder has been awarded a 2006 Nokia Research Award by Texas Christian University, where she is a rhetoric graduate student. The Nokia Research Awards are given for research related to gender studies. Yoder plans to use the funds to travel to the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth to conduct research for her dissertation, entitled "Thinking of Wales as Her?: Investigating the Intersection(s) of Gender and Nation in Welsh Nationalist Discourse."

'03

Heidi Friesen continues to teach at Baiko Jo Gakuin, a school in Shimonoseki, Japan. Having spent her middle school years in Pakistan, she recently recorded a CD of her original music with lyrics translated into Japanese to raise money for Pakistan earthquake relief efforts. Her music, which was played on Japanese radio stations, raised more than \$2,000. Visit her blog at

Alumni: What's new with you?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th Street SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to classic@nwciowa.edu; fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the fall '06 *Classic* is July 31.

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 Current employer(s) _____

www.livejournal.com/users/otogibanaashi.

Katie Hendricksen, Billings, Mont., serves as a wildland firefighter for the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Kristin (Erickson) Lassen, Orange City, ran the Boston Marathon in April, finishing with a time of 3:27:39. She qualified for that race when running the Chicago Marathon last October.

Tim Schoenfeld and his wife, **Sarah (Kennedy '01)**, are members of 88 improv, an improvisational theatre group based in Omaha. Also in the group are **Solomon Davis '05**, **Steve Hydeen '02**, **Corinne Mings '05** and **Nate Schoenfeld '02**. 88 improv will perform at the Kansas City Fringe Festival and the Minnesota Fringe Festival this summer.

Aubrey Van Sloten will teach health at Hicks Elementary in Houston this fall.

'04

Amy (Schroeder) Johnson has completed her Master of Social Work degree. She is a medical social worker at Skaggs Community Health Center in Branson, Mo.

Jessica Mueller recently received a full-tuition Presidential Scholarship from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley, Calif. In addition to pursuing a master's degree in society and religion, she will be working with the hall ministry at the University of San Francisco.

Hannah Zasadny is pursuing a master's degree in the physician assistant program at Des Moines University.

'05

Kara (Dehmlow) Knaack, Madrid, Iowa, is serving as the community services coordinator for the Iowa chapter of the Arthritis Foundation in Des Moines.

'06

Jackie Carlson, Council Bluffs, Iowa, was recently appointed program director of Volunteer Council Bluffs, a program of the Loess Hills Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Emily Hennager is employed as marketing and tourism assistant for the Iowa State Fair in Des Moines.

Alumna gives birth to quintuplets

Christine (Phillips '95)

Bolton, Lafayette, Ind., delivered quintuplets on Nov. 15 in Indianapolis. Son Matthew Daniel died a few hours after birth, and Isaac John died three days later.

Joshua David was able to come home on Jan. 21, and sisters Abigail Grace and Elizabeth Sarah joined the rest of their family on Jan. 27.

Christine reports the triplets are growing and doing well. "The Lord has been faithful in protecting and providing for us and blessing us with the joy of these three children," she says.

Christine and her husband, Shane, maintain a blog: boltonquints.blogspot.com.

New arrivals

Doug and Anne (Slagter '91) Groen, son, Samuel Douglas, joins Nicholas (6).

Bob and Melinda (Van Engen '91)

Timmer, daughter, Emily Jo.

Martin and Sarah (Walton '92)

Stillion, son, Sebastian Horatio.

Paul and Kristin (Fischer '93) Smith, daughter by adoption from China, Sarah Fei, joins Micah (7) and Isabel (4).

Kara (Rankin '93) and Jeff VanDerWerff '83, associate profes-

sor of political science, twins, Ian Jeffrey and Elin Janae, join Jake (5) and Kate (2).

Kim and Paul Van Ravenswaay '94, daughter, Avery Ann, joins Tyler (2).

Heather and Jason Kanz '95, son, Ian Alexander, joins Grace (6).

Christy (Hoffman '96) and Lou Bram '96, daughter, Abigail Esther, joins Anna (4) and Elijah (2).

Gabrielle Coon and Scott Grooters '96, daughter, Maren Elizabeth, joins Austin (3).

Todd and Barbara (Nemec '96) Larson, son, Logan Andrew, joins Kendall (5).

Jeff and Rachel (Vermeer '96) Runia, son, Cole David, joins Mason (5) and Grace (2).

Brittany and Adam Tyrrell '96, son, William (Will) Asher, joins Faith (5) and Reece (3).

Julie (Schuiteman '97) and Eric McDonald '98, son, Shane Robert, joins Alexa (4) and Emma (2).

Ben and Lisa (Dummer '97) Percy, son, Connor Benjamin.

Kristi and Fred Landis '98, daughter, Alexis Breann.

Tara (Meyer '98) and Craig Madsen '97, daughter, Hadley Jo, joins Carson (3).

Annie (De Jong '98) and Todd Schmidt '95, son, Cole Matthew, joins Luke (2).

Debra and Kevin VanderLinden '98, son, Jacob Samuel, joins Tyler (2).

Amy and Kirk Johnson '99, son, Karson Jeremiah.

Manda (Nelson '99) and B.J. Van Kalsbeek '99, daughter, Kamea Lee.

Tim and Sara (Cleveringa '99) Van Zee, son, Zacheriah Jon, joins BreElle (4) and Reese (2).

Scott and Nichole (Tabor '00) Bryant, son, Charles Owen.

Damon and Jessica (Nissen '00) Earnshaw, son, Lincoln Reid.

Ken and Michelle (Kluitenberg '00) Frieling, daughter, Lillian Ruth.

Anne (Neerhof '00) and Austin Hellbusch '00, son, Aren Matthew.

Christianne (Smith '00) and James Koop '99, daughter, Catelynn Anne, joins David (2).

Kendra (Schutt '01) and Gabe Carlson '00, daughter, Kaylee Joy.

Davee (Hubers '01) and Steve Connell '00, son, Austin John.

Abby (Schuiteman '01) and Stan De Zeeuw '01, son, Aiden Leon.

Jeremy and Joy Hibma Pritchard '01, daughter, Charlotte Hope.

Mark and Melanie (Vigneron '01) Safly, daughter, Paige Elizabeth.

Vicki (Dykstra '01) and Justin Schrock '01, daughter, Emilee Ann, joins AJ (3) and Caleb (2).

Chad and T.J. (Hoftyzer '01) Simington, son, Caleb Wayne.

Lyndsay (Henderson '02) and Scott Bahrke '00, daughter, Payge Marie.

Ashley and Brian Brown '02, son, Brady Thomas.

Ryan and Sara (Kaisand '02)

McMahan, daughter, Kailey JoAnn.

Josh and Natalie (Bosma '02)

Sandbulte, daughter, Hallie Alayna.

Loren and Erin (Chaffin '02) Van Veldhuizen, son, Jonah Lee.

Jaylene (Wiersema '03) and James De Vos '03, daughter, Julia Grace.

Anna (MacKay '04) and Steve Friesse '03, daughter, Evelyn Rachel.

Sam and Kaley (Fahl '04) Poegel, son, Thomas Jon.

Marriages

Shelby Keating '91 and Tom Wilson, Orange, Calif.

Jodi Schmitt '93 and Alan Hunter, Rockford, Ill.

Shanda Van Riesen '94 and Tom Knight, Evansdale, Iowa.

Tonia Wiese '98 and Scott Sheesley, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Courtney Steele '99 and Lance Eggers, Yutan, Neb.

Ryan Petersen '01 and Heather Hayes, Arden, N.C.

Dan Johnston '05 and Kali Carroll '06, Nashville, Tenn.

Brooke Wissler '05 and Jordan Freiborg '05, St. Michael, Minn.

The couples reside in the city listed.

Quietly Seeking Community

by Jared Bearss '04

When I started my senior year at Northwestern, I had no idea how much it would influence the rest of my life. During my first three years, I had done a lot of searching for something to guide my life's path—something to be passionate about—but nothing really caught my attention.

It was easy, even with roommates, to spend much of my time in college separated from others: studying, reading, playing video games. However, boiling beneath the surface of my life there lived this silent desire for more: deeper relationships, more real people, and a more abundant life.

I was catching glimpses along the way. Twice I participated in Spring Service Projects—the first to Calvary Commission in Lindale, Texas, and the second to The Mendenhall Ministries in Mendenhall, Miss. Spending a week in such an intense setting with my peers and leaders gave me a beautiful glance of what was possible living intimately with others and serving those around us.

In particular, I remember a conversation I had with the student leader of my SSP to Lindale. One night after most of the other students had gone to bed, Caleb Ingersoll and I sat outside sharing our thoughts and dreams. In hindsight, I see that as a moment where I got a taste of the type of deep relationship that can form when people share life together, even for a short period of time. This was the type of interaction I was looking for, whether I knew it or not.

Heemstra, the dorm where I lived for four years, also provided glimpses of this community. A tight-knit collection of very different guys, Heemstra was a place where all were accepted for who they were, regardless of their personality, abilities, social standing, intelligence, likes and dislikes, or any of the other issues that commonly create walls between people. I found in Heemstra a place to fit in, no matter what.

When I began my senior year, we had a new resident director, Brian Moriarty. Brian came in with a passion for community in the dorm. He saw the potential for even greater depth and connection, and he began—both subtly and in grand ways—to show us the beauty of people living together.

I remember the verse he chose as the theme for our year, Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" From the very beginning, the theme of deep community became our world, and we were immersed in it.

Brian encouraged community to grow in many small ways, but one of the biggest and most concrete ways came from an idea he garnered after visiting Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He introduced the idea of households, or as they became known to us, brotherhoods.

In brotherhoods, a group of guys committed to getting together weekly for worship, study, discussion or some other type of activity that would build community. These brotherhoods were an opportunity to create deeper relationships between small groups of guys in the dorm—deepening the larger community through deepening smaller communities.

Already with these ideas of community in mind, I walked into chapel one morning to listen to Bart Campolo speak about his concern for the poor and the gospel's call to help those in need. His message connected with my silent desire for more, and I was in such awe of his message that afterward he complimented me on my attentiveness.

I attended a lunch with Bart to learn more about Mission Year. Listening to him explain how Mission Year worked and how those who did it lived, I quickly decided this was something Jesus would be a part of, and therefore I wanted to be a part of it too.

From the start of my Mission Year experience, my focus was mainly on community—with the five people I lived with, those I worked and served with, members of New Hope Baptist Church, and my neighbors on Brockhurst Street.

I still live in community. It is different from the community I was a part of in Mission Year and at Northwestern, but it is greatly influenced by both.

Jared Bearss, philosopher- and theologian-in-training, spent a year serving in the inner city of Oakland, Calif. Now he resides in Pella, Iowa, working at the Christian Opportunity Center, a nonprofit organization committed to helping people with disabilities achieve a better life. Jared is also committed to developing and living in intentional Christian community and searching for more ways to be involved in God's redemption of all creation.



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"The opportunities Northwestern offers to get out of the small, rural environment into the big world are so valuable. We often only know our immediate surroundings. It's so important to realize there's more in the world."

Alissa Ylonen '07
Lake Elmo, Minn.
Elementary education and
Spanish major



As a Summer of Service missionary, I fought to overcome cultural differences and language barriers so I could communicate the love of God with my Japanese friends. While studying in three Spanish-speaking countries, I realized studying abroad is only the beginning of learning about the world. Because of these experiences, I will approach my job as a teacher with a different perspective. My goal will be not only to educate students about math and science, but also to show them the world and prepare them to live as productive and compassionate citizens within it. Your donation to the Northwestern Fund gives students like me the opportunity to serve the Lord both abroad and locally.

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- Morning on the Green carnival
- Red Raider football and soccer games
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